

# BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

**CURRENT PEDIATRIC DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT—Third Edition—**C. Henry Kempe, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver; Henry K. Silver, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Donough O'Brien, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine; and associate authors, Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1974. 1020 pages, \$12.00.

That this is the third edition of this useful pediatric text is ample evidence of its excellent reception. It provides comprehensive coverage of virtually all facets of child care, and includes attention to ambulatory care procedures as well as chapters concerning all of the important categories of illnesses of children. Many of the latter are covered more completely than in earlier editions and virtually all have been updated substantially.

The concise style and the organization of the subject material facilitates the use of this text as an aid in differential diagnosis and lends itself well to rapid review of subject areas by the busy physician.

A series of chapters describing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, fluid therapy, drug therapy, and antimicrobial drugs provides a useful source of information, particularly for the physician in training, as well as for those drugs or procedures used infrequently. A section on interpretation of biochemical values in infants and children, including various screening procedures, will be particularly useful.

This is an excellent outline of pediatrics, and a useful source of current authoritative references for additional reading. At its price it is perhaps the greatest bargain in books (or anything else, for that matter) today.

PAUL F. WEHRLE, MD

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**DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC AIDS IN UROLOGY—**Henry Bodner, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery (Urology), Loma Linda University School of Medicine, White Memorial Hospital Division, Los Angeles; In collaboration with John S. Arconti, Jr., MD, Formerly Clinical Instructor, Department of Surgery (Urology), UCLA Center for the Health Sciences; Allan H. Howard, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery (Urology), University of California Medical Center, Irvine; and Robert O. Pearman, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery (Urology), UCLA Center for the Health Sciences, Los Angeles. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, IL (62703), 1974. 332 pages, \$24.75.

This volume is a "meaty" compendium of practical urological information. It is an assemblage of facts, figures, suggestions and admonitions which represent the contributions of nearly two hundred experienced urologists from a wide geographic area. The Editor-in-Chief, Henry Bodner, MD, relates that most of the ideas came from the "Weekly Urological Clinical Letter" published by him since 1957. He and his editorial colleagues have extracted the most significant material, added ideas of their own and presented it here in a very well organized format.

In general the material was selected because it seems practical and bears some promise of permanent value—in so far as that term has any real meaning. They have added suggestions on the organization of the urologist's office. Most of this is good but relates chiefly to the beginner in private practice and in that reference the advice is good. Some qualifications arise here. The suggested

basic equipment list is suitable for a very large office setup or even more so for those centers where a fully equipped outpatient urological service is provided. The list given is far too elaborate in my opinion for the average young practitioner in the field. I do not find the section on office business problems or management, as mentioned in the jacket "blurb," but this omission is just as well as being out of place here.

In general the chapter on armamentarium is thorough and well done. I thought that the following chapter, "The Urine and Related Factors," was excellent. Such things as the tables relating to urine colors and to drug implications are well presented and very useful. I was glad to see the information on urine flow and collection factors.

The remainder of the book presents a wealth of relevant information and suggestions (given as mentioned on the jacket) on the framework of the urologic system taking each structure in turn. There are times when the opinion of the editorial staff might seem somewhat prejudiced. Such an example is that referring to renal biopsy techniques.

I am most impressed with the usefulness of this volume. I find little if any room for real criticism. I recommend it for all practicing urologists.

THOMAS F. CONROY, JR., MD

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**ABDOMINAL OPERATIONS—Sixth Edition—Volumes 1 and 2—**Rodney Maingot, FRCS, and British and American Contributors. Appleton-Century-Crofts, A Publishing Division of Prentice-Hall, Inc., Publishers, Englewood Cliffs, NJ (07632), 1974. 2240 pages, \$82.50.

Dr. Maingot has been, for many years, a top British Statesman of Surgery and I have in my library the second, 1948, and the fourth, 1961, editions, the latter autographed to me when he was a delightful and impressive guest speaker at the Society of Graduate Surgeons of Los Angeles County, USC Medical Center Circa in 1963.

The present two volumes are well updated with chapters by a variety of authors who are tops in their specialties and would be valuable reading for both beginning and experienced surgeons and of excellent reference value for doctors in Internal Medicine, General Practice and even many other fields.

A particular value of many chapters is that while alternative procedures are presented, reasons are clearly stated why a procedure is or is not the operation of choice under various conditions.

Dr. Maingot has always seemed to me quite like Winston Churchill both in appearance and in manner and his personality and decisiveness come through the parts that he has prepared and one can almost see his extreme vigor and his typical British sense of humor even in scientific presentations.

The history and evolution of the various procedures is interestingly documented in most chapters so that one can settle down to an evening of informative reading or look up a quick but adequate reference when needed.

FRED M. ANDERSON, MD